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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/622,781	11/20/2000	Zhi-Zhong Liang	6900-255 MIS	4138

24223 7590 10/10/2003

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EXAMINER

METZMAIER, DANIEL S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1712

DATE MAILED: 10/10/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/622,781

Examiner

Daniel S. Metzmaier

Applicant(s)

LIANG, ZHI-ZHONG

Art Unit

1712

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment of 9/22/2003 & interview of 10/6/2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 7,9,10 and 12-32.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

5. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
- (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet.

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- 1 ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 3 ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 5 ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. _____.
- 7 ☒ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- 2 ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 4 ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. 1003
- 6 ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- 8 ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- 9 ☐ Other

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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

Claims 7, 9-10 and 12-32 are allowed.

1. An extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) is required in order to make an examiner's amendment, which places this application in condition for allowance. During a telephone conversation conducted on October 05, 2003, Michael I. Stewart requested an extension of time for 3 MONTH(S) and authorized the Director to charge Deposit Account No. 192,253 the required fee of \$540 for this extension and authorized the following examiner's amendment. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the specification

The pages of the specification have been renumbered consecutively as follows:

Renumber pages 6a, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14; as 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15; respectively.

Add the following page after the claims as the abstract of the disclosure:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Methods for making the stable dispersion of lignin components of black liquor in bitumen. Representative methods comprising converting an aqueous colloidal dispersion of lignin in spent pulping liquor to an anhydrous colloidal dispersion of lignin in a lubricating oil by mixing a lubricating oil with the spent pulping liquor, and dewatering the mixture so formed at an elevated temperature to form a cream-like paste compatible with bitumen, and mixing said anhydrous colloidal dispersion of lignin with bitumen.

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In the claims

Cancel claims 1-6 and 11 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Add new claim 32 as follows:

- ⁴32. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein the anionic surfactant is dodecylbenzene sulfonic acid.

The above amendment cancels composition claims 1-6 and claim 11, which regarding claim 11 applicants' intent was unclear from the amendment filed September 22, 2003. Said amendment included a claim 11 and also indicated claim 11 to be canceled. The above amendment renders said inconsistency moot.

Basis for claim 32 may be found at least at page 4, lines 2-8; page 5, lines 5-6; and examples

Reasons for allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: attention is directed to paragraphs 7 and 8 of the last office action.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel S. Metzmaier whose telephone number is (703) 308-0451. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Dawson can be reached on (703) 308-2340. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.


Daniel S. Metzmaier
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1712

DSM